File

Georgetown, Texas.
Jan. 9th 1933.

Editor: The Presbyterian,
1217 Market Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I wish, as a constant reader, of your much appreciated Paper, to contribute my bit towards the success of the coming to our State, of the Presbyterian General Assembly, in May of this year.

As a bit of History, my deceased father, John McMurray, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, who came from Scotland, in an early day, settling first, in Virginia and Pennsylvania, later his father, removed to Ohio, where he was born in 1829.

Receiving Academic schooling, near home, College at Hanover, Ill., and Theological training at Princeton, N. J., he was ordained and sent to Texas, from Philadelphia, in the Fall of 1860, via New Orleans, Galveston, and on into the interior as far West as San Antonio, where he served the Madison Sq. Church, two years. His Elder, Mr. French was hung in effigy across Commerce, the Church closed, his family forced to return North, and, my father returned to Austin, where the minister in charge, accompanied him over to Georgetown (this Church being vacant) Arrangements were made for him to remain. He married the eldest daughter of his Ruling Elder, built a Home and Church and remained here about ten years, both preaching and teaching; then we removed to Taylor, a new town about two years old, where he built a School-house. (The Church already had a building) He continued double work until the Church secured a minister, who was, also from Pennsylvania. It was here that my mother died in 1880, leaving me, the eldest and only daughter, with four brothers, and I, alone, remaining. In 1888 we removed to West Texas, where my father continued to live for about twenty years. It was while we were at Cisco, I accompanied him to Detroit in 1891, and he was Honorably Retired by the General Assembly, then in session. It was my first and only trip

out of Texas, and I have felt a great interest in its proceedings ever since. My Father died here, after a year's residence, in Jan. 1912, and is buried at Taylor, beside my mother. About a year before the General Assembly came to Dallas, I succeeded in locating a family there, that I knew here, that I might visit there, at that time, and, I did.

My mother's Estate was settled while we were in Cisco. My father assisted me, as an investment, to purchase a Lot in Ft. Worth, Texas, and the town grew into a City, during my ownership of the Lot, located in one of the most desirable additions to the City.

About two years ago, negotiations came up, whereby a Company proposed a $90,000.00 improvement and I was urged and did sell my lot, which I had held for more than thirty years, and during that time all our travelling from West to Central Texas, was done through Ft. Worth.

I was born in 1868, and I have two sons, three daughters all married, except the youngest, who teaches, and expects to marry a minister, when he completes his Theological training at Seminary in Austin.

We had a minister here, for nearly forty years, but due to death and removals, our Church is now vacant, and the membership very much reduced. I may feel the need of Church support, later on, and I am wondering, in a case like mine, what the General Assembly can do for me. A close companion of my Father, through his Life, it un-fits me, in a way, for the life of an ordinary woman, though I try to adapt myself to circumstances and it may work out all-right.

With kind regards, and assurance of appreciation for The Presbyterian, I am Very Sincerely

(Mrs.) E. V. Ellyson.

March 15, 1933.

Miss Grace L. Enright,
American Presbyterian Mission,
Sangli, S. M. C., India.

Dear Miss Enright:

Your interesting letter has been received. It always distresses me to be accused of modernistic tendencies for I am ultra-conservative, if I know my own heart. I have sent your letter to Dr. Topping for him to answer. We have had some criticism of his articles. It is quite likely they should not have been printed. I think he is conservative and I understood that Dr. Allis and other conservative men endorsed his articles. I did not detect liberal leaning as I read his manuscript.

The present editor of THE PRESBYTERIAN has been commended by conservatives again and again. I am willing to admit that he may blunder often but I assure you that none is more strongly orthodox than he is.

I have felt at times that conservatives have been too strong in expression but I agreed with their purpose. I hope Dr. Topping will clear up your difficulties.

Cordially yours,

W. Courtland Robinson.

WCR*E

A RELIGIOUS WEEKLY FOR THE FAMILY

THE PRESBYTERIAN

Founded 1831

HAS A NATION-WIDE CIRCULATION

TWELVE-SEVENTEEN MARKET ST. PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Friend:-

We are advised that you have been elected a commissioner to the General Assembly meeting at Denver and it is our desire to serve you with information that will be of assistance to you as a member of that body.

The issues following our General Assembly Number will contain articles and comments on the proceedings. These will be so valuable to you when reporting to your presbytery, that they alone will be worth the SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER OF ONE DOLLAR FOR SEVEN MONTHS, which we are making to all commissioners. Pin a dollar bill to this letter, writing your name on the lines below, and THE PRESBYTERIAN will come to you for seven months, dating from the receipt of the order.

Yours very truly,

PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Please send me THE PRESBYTERIAN for seven months, for which you will find one dollar enclosed.

Name _____

Street _____

City and State _____

Yearly subscription $2.50 Ministerial rate $2.00

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, N. J.

December 15, 1932

My dear Robinson:-

It was very good in you to submit to me the letter from Mr. Harding. I should greatly deprecate its publication. It is true that many criticisms quite as severe have been published in reference to the Board and to individual members of the Board, but such publications are quite contrary to the principles of our Christian faith, particularly as set forth in Matthew 18:15-18. On this Scriptural principle our whole Presbyterian law and practice are based. To make public such charges without investigation or specifications cannot fail to do harm and injustice and to grieve the heart of our Lord.

The manly, noble Christian procedure is to submit criticisms or charges to the party or parties who are supposed to be at fault, to discuss the matter with such parties fully. If satisfaction is then not attained, the matter should br brought before some church court. In the case of the Board of Foreign Missions, criticism should first be presented to it with some definite specifications in the light of which charges can be investigated. If the Board is unable to satisfy any honest critics the matter should be presented to the Assembly which always has an impartial Standing Committee on Foreign Missions. This Committee is never appointed in advance and represents all the electing sections of the Assembly, which means that it represents every portion of the Church and of the country. Only after such a Committee has had the opportunity of considering and investigating and reporting upon such charges as are made by Mr. Harding should anything appear in public print. This is the deepest conviction of my heart and I regard any infraction of this principle as disloyal to Christ and the Presbyterian Church.

One of the most notable infractions of this general principle has been that of the Laymen's Foreign Missions Inquiry. In this case the most serious charges against our Boards were published in all the papers of the United States and Canada before being submitted to the Boards. You will remember that when the report did reach the Boards they were told that the reports were absolutely confidential and none of us felt free to make any public statement. This procedure on the part of the Laymen's Inquiry is justly and widely condemned. I do trust that no Presbyterians will act in accordance with this principle when desiring to criticize our Boards and agencies or individual members of our Church. The infraction of this principle has done irreparable harm to our Church during the past ten years, and the Church at large is awakened, I believe, to the necessity of condemning those who refuse to abide by Christian principles as disloyal to our Church and its Constitution.

Of course, if necessary or desirable, the letter of Mr. Harding could easily be discussed in detail. He states that he is "fully convinced that the great majority of our Board members and also the consecrated missionaries on the field are fundamentally sound". Yet his proposal and the publication of his letter would throw discredit upon this "great majority" and would further reduce the pitiful salaries

of the missionaries on the field. This is inevitable unless Mr. Harding can name or specify the "unsound minority." It is his duty to furnish such names and evidence to the Board for its action and enlightenment.

The proposal which he makes that all the Board members and that each missionary should annually subscribe in writing their doctrinal views has been proposed but has not met with favor in our Church. It would probably not be opposed by our Board. In effect the Board has done this again and again. The deliverance made by our Board at Lakeville a year ago, the affirmation made this year in reply to the Laymen's Missions Inquiry are statements of the absolute loyalty of the Board to the doctrines and beliefs of our Church. Our Board stands squarely for these doctrinal beliefs and will not continue its work on any other basis.

The one other item which Mr. Harding mentions is that of Mrs. Buck. He seems to have a wrong Mrs. Buck in mind as he mentions a Mrs. Phoebe S. Buck. However, I may state in confidence to you that Pearl Buck was not sent out by our Board. She was a Southern Presbyterian who married one of our missionaries on the field. She is now in this country and has renounced her salary and is supporting herself, so that no missionary money is being devoted to her support. My personal opinion is that to publish attacks on Mrs. Buck only adds to her noteriety and influence. My own view is that the less said about her the better for all parties concerned. However, the Board would be very willing and eager to consider any such specification or specifications as may be sent to them, but until the Church has acted it seems to me wrong, in fact un-Christian, to publish general charges and accusations against any individual or group in our Church.

Yours faithfully,

Charles R. Erdman

141 Broadway,
New York City,
9/28/32.

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson D.D.
Editor The Presbyterian.

Enclosed article entitled, "Trifling With Souls." I offer gratuitously for publication, if not acceptable please return, postage enclosed.

Cordially Yours,

Ernest A. Eggers

141 Broadway.
New York City.
Nov 7 1932.

Editors The Presbyterian

Gentlemen:

Kindly advise whether you received by mail an article entitled "Trifling With Souls" and forwarded to you more than two months ago. I am anxious to learn what has become of it.

Cordially yours,

Ernest A. Eggers

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, N. J.

December 9, 1932

My dear Robinson:-

Let me thank you for using my article so promptly and also for your words of commendation which appear in this issue of The Presbyterian.

Yours faithfully,

Charles R. Erdman

The Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D.D.,
Delhi, New York.

Answer & file

R.D.3. Coraopolis, Pa.
Dec. 5, 1932.

Dear Dr. Robinson —

Ever since our daughter — Geraldine — and her husband — Rev Mr. Norman N. Taylor, — have been missionaries in Mexico, we have sent them the Presbyterian each Christmas. They were home for two years on account of Mr Taylors health, (he developed Sprue) one year in the States and the 2nd year with his people in Winnipeg, Canada, and when we subscribed for them last year, it was $2.50 to Canada. Until they came home 3 yrs ago we paid just $2.00 per yr. as the postage to Mexico was the same as the U.S. They returned to Mexico City last February as Norman's health was recovered; and now we want to send the Presbyterian to them again this Christmas. Will you please let us know about the postage on it to Mexico and we shall renew their sub-

scription at once. We enjoyed your message to us some months ago. We, too have happy memories of our associations with you and Mrs Robinson during our days in Philadelphia, and we often speak of our day together en route to Mahanoi (?) Monument Ill. how the dusty roads worried Mrs Robinson! Mr Ely suffered a very serious break in health, following his return from his strenuous Evangelistic campaign in India in 1925-1926. and was in a sanitorium for some time. but I am very thankful that he is much better in health, but the Doctors advise that he must not do any more Evangelistic work, nor do any active Christian work, so we live very quiet lives and are very happy in a little bungalow "by the side of the Road" on Broadhead Rd, Route 51, between Pittsburgh + Beaver Falls Pa. (7 mi from Coraopolis + 25 mi from Pgh.) We have a garden, chickens + flowers + Mr Ely has enjoyed beautifying our lawn and surroundings, but longs to be in Evangelistic work again. He has not realized the seriousness of his illness, so please do not refer to his health should you write, as he resents it. With warm remembrance to both of you from both of us. I am

Very Cordially yours,

(Mrs James B.) Olive Fulton Ely.

December 12, 1932.

Rev. James B. Ely, D.D.,
R. D. 3,
Coraopolis, Pa.

Dear Dr. Ely:

It was a pleasure to hear from you via your wife. My wife and I often speak of you both and especially the day together in Eastern Shore sand.

In answer to her inquiry will say that the subscription rate to Mexico is $2.00 to ministers. We are glad to get subscriptions. THE PRESBYTERIAN is having rough sailing against contrary winds. Our generous supporters have suffered greatly in the financial collapse.

So glad you returned from India all right. We cannot spare such as you and Mrs. Ely. Mrs. Robinson and I are staying in our Delhi, New York, home this winter but I send this to the office to be typed.

We both send you warmest regards and best wishes.

Cordially yours,

W. Courtland Robinson.

WCR:E

December 13, 1932.

Rev. Charles R. Erdman, D.D., LL.D.,
Library Place,
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Erdman:

Enclosed find copy of a letter sent to me evidently for publication under the head "What People Write." I wish to get your reaction. It has been my policy to allow the people to be heard very freely in that department. I think it wisest and best to allow vent to feelings. I have visited criticism of myself. I do not want to injure the great cause of which you are the head in our Church but I do hear much criticism, not so much of persons as of policies. There is no doubt that the Appraisal Committee and Pearl Buck have given your board body blows.

Now I am of the opinion that I should print Mr. Harding's letter but I want to know your mind. Please send reply to Delhi, New York.

Cordially yours,

W. Courtland Robinson.

WCR*E

November 14, 1932.

Rev. W. W. Edge, D.D.,
140 E. Orange St.,
Lancaster, Pa.

Dear Dr. Edge:

Permit me to tell you how much good your letter did me. It strengthens one to have another support and agree with him. I am confident that conservatives have lost because of strife between themselves. There has been too much personality interjected by various excellent men. I think I am conservative but I see no good in turning my face from another conservative with whom I agree in much and may disagree in a little.

Your letter did much to help me. Without pay I have stuck to the position as editor because I believe THE PRESBYTERIAN is needed in the Presbyterian Church. I know I blunder often but such a letter as this from you perks me up amazingly. I thank you.

Most sincerely yours,

WCR*E

Rev. R. H. Gage, D.D., *Chairman*
Wenonah, N. J.

W. P. Stevenson, LL.D., *Treasurer*
Roselle, N. J.

Shepherd E. Leeds, *Assistant Treasurer*
25 Raymond Terrace, Elizabeth, N. J.

Presbyterian National Missions in Synod of New Jersey

Rev. JOSEPH LYONS EWING, D. D., Superintendent
132 BRYANT STREET
RAHWAY, N. J.

Phone: Rahway 7-2063

August 3 1932

Rev·W.Courtland Robinson.D.D.
1217 Marlet Street,
Philadelphia.Pa.

My dear Dr Robinson:

The recent article in the Presbyterian on what the church press could do for Prohibition,provoked me to get busy on what I feebly sent to ~~the~~ some papers a year ago,viz what the preachers of this country ought to be doing(and others who know facts and how to write them) for Prohibition through the secular.and even mostly wet press. There are ten thousand and more papers ,DEELIGHTED to publish anything the local pastor will decently write up and hand in. Personally I find it so.Very wet papers,too.jump at the chance of publishing what the preacher writes.Papers like the Ledger,Newark News and New York times,I have used several times. Possible the thing is needed more away out in the ~~fixxx~~ Squedunk neighborhoods,where the preacher's opinions are respectdd even more than the editor's opinions.

Well.here is my confession. I sat down to write the Presbyterian an article to match the one by Mr.Teague on the subject above mentioned.My eye fell on your "Gibbering" masterpiece on the foremost "lady-wet".and off I went on another line.and I ~~xx~~ am herewith ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ enclosing a play up of your word GIBBERING. I don't know how it will strike you. In it is much the hoi polloi don't know much about .If you can stick it into one of the early issues of the Presbyterian it ought to do some good and I doubt if it would hurt the Presbyterian.

Cordially,

Joseph Lyons Ewing

If you would put in a quarter page editorial the idea about preachers getting themselves into the secular press.it would do a lot of good.

Or ~~xxxxxxx~~ I might have a later article on that subject.

Rev. R. H. Gage, D.D., *Chairman*
Wenonah, N. J.

W. P. Stevenson, LL.D., *Treasurer*
Roselle, N. J.

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Phone: Rahway 7-2063

June 10 1932

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson. D.D.
Philadelphia. Pa.

My dear Robinson:

I get all "het" up over the misuse of the terms religion and Christian, that I would like to help to set things right. That's why I have dared the brand new sermon enclosed. It is not so very long and you might find a corner to stick it in. and thus assist in propagating an idea.

Anywau the thing is brand new and it is going to nodoby else, at least until you have had a shot at it for the Presbyterian.

I like your editorials and comments and seems to me the Presbyterian is going strong.

A comment from your pen on the Board of Christian Education's new slogan. "Educate to evangelize" would set well, I am sire. I like the idea immensely. Just sat today withyour son and four others plotting something on evangelism for the Presbytery this coming year.

Cordially,

Joseph Lyons Ewing

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, N. J.

June 17, 1932

My dear Robinson:-

"The Comments on the Recent General Assembly" by Dr. Fulton seem to me to be admirable and I have just taken the liberty of writing him a brief message of congratulation.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Charles R. Erdman

The Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D.D.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

CAMP EAGLES EYRIE

LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK

My dear Robinson

Let me thank you for your cordial letter. It is deeply appreciated. I hope the editorial path may prove less and less thorny.

Yours faithfully

Charles R. Erdman

July 4. 32